(c) Some data on nuclear waste can be used to make quantitative estimates about strategic operations.

(d) Disposal of low and intermediate level waste can be carried out only after proper treatment and conditioning meeting the prescribed limits specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. High level waste is stored in engineered facilities and is currently not disposed.

Private participation in generation plants under Atomic Energy

307. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow private sector to put up generation plants under atomic energy; and

(b) if not, in what manner Government propose to increase the capacity under atomic energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Atomic Energy Act allows setting up of nuclear power plants only by Government or Government Companies in which not less than 51% equity is held by the Central Government. There is no proposal currently under the consideration of the Government for allowing private sector to set up nuclear power plants.

(b) Nuclear power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (BHAVINI), public sector companies, fully owned by Government of India, are responsible for implementing the nuclear power programme of Department of Atomic Energy. In addition to the existing total nuclear power capacity of 2770 MWe, nine nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 4460 MWe are presently under construction. On completion of these projects, the installed capacity will progressively reach 6780 (including 50 MWs by upgradation of MAPS-1) MWe by the year 2008 and 7280 by the year 2011.